

Lincoln, Nebraska  
December 2, 2005

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COUNCIL**  
***MEETING MINUTES***

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The Community Corrections Council (Council) met Friday, December 2, 2005, 9:00 a.m., at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Members present:

Dr. Scot L. Adams  
Mike Behm  
William Burgess  
Ellen Brokofsky  
Esther Casmer  
Catherine Cook  
The Honorable Karen B. Flowers  
Dr. Aileen Gruendel  
Julie Hippen  
Robert Houston  
The Honorable John P. Icenogle  
Joe Kelly  
Robert Lindemeier  
Jim McKenzie  
Senator John Syowiecki  
Senator Kermit A. Brashear, Chair

Member absent:

Nancy Montanez  
Janice Walker

Council staff present:

Linda Krutz, Director  
Julie L Rogers

Others present:

Bruce Ayers  
Jeff Beaty  
Scott Bauer  
Robert Bell  
Scott Carlson  
Colleen Cunningham  
Michael Flood  
Liz Hruska  
Nate Jenkins  
Frank Jenson  
Nicole Kennedy  
Steve King  
Doug Koebernick  
John Krejci  
Ed Lankas  
Rochelle Mallett  
Rick McNeese  
Deb Minardi  
Doug Nichols  
Michael Overton  
Janee Pannkuk  
Jim Pieper  
Karen Rasmussen  
Leslie Reed  
T. Hank Robinson  
Steve Rowoldt  
Ron Sorensen  
Robert Walton [sic]  
Jessica Watson  
Larry Wayne  
Dave Wegner

## **CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME & OVERVIEW**

Chairperson Brashear called the Council meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and gave an overview of the meeting. Attendance is indicated above.

Chairperson Brashear welcomed new member Ellen Brokofsky, Probation Administrator, and recognized that Nancy Montanez, Director of Health and Human Services is also a new member.

It was noted that there has been many new members to the Council. Key statutes to the operation of the Council were reviewed, and Brashear traced the historically significant events leading to the creation of the Council and the Council's work related to deter the building of a new prison in the state and to enhance offender supervision in the community.

Items related to meeting process and procedure were reviewed.

## **SUGGESTED MEETING DATES FOR '06**

Meeting dates for 2006 were discussed. The April and November dates will be changed as they fall on state holiday—Arbor Day and Veteran's Day respectively, and the Council will confirm the dates at the next meeting.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There is a correction in the August 19, 2005, meeting minutes—on the top of page 3, strike "\$1000", and insert "\$5000". The minutes of the August 19, 2005, meeting stood approved as corrected.

## **COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS FEE REPORT**

The Community Corrections Fee Report was reviewed by Bruce Ayers of the Crime Commission. The interest accruing in each of the three funds was reflected in the report.

## **TARGET POPULATION REPORT**

The standard Target Population Report was explained and highlighted by Mike Overton of the Crime Commission. The felony drug offenders admitted to the Department of Correctional Services is still increasing while the number of felony drug offenders on Probation and on Parole is decreasing.

Overton updated the Council on the Community Corrections Uniform Data Analysis Activities with an outline detailing the work being completed with the Vera Institute of Justice, the hiring of a data analyst position, and the plan for initial funding objectives.

A formal definition of "felony drug offender" was discussed, and Overton will provide one in the future.

## **TIMELINE**

The 2006 Timeline was reviewed and approved as presented.

## **SPECIALIZED SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUPERVISION PROGRAM**

The Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision Program (SSAS) was presented by Deb Minardi, Chief Probation Officer for Douglas County and Steve Rowoldt, Chief Probation Officer for Lancaster County. Details were given about the timeline and implementation of SSAS including specialized officer training, the coordination of the offender voucher treatment program, the execution of the standardized model, and the creation of day and evening reporting centers.

The vision of SSAS:

“We Believe that Targeting the Treatment Needs of Offenders Ultimately Reduces Recidivism and Enhances Public Safety”

The mission of SSAS is:

“To address the Treatment and Supervision Needs of Offenders with Chronic Drug Problems through Evidence-Based Practices via a Coordinated and Integrated Strategy Across Systems.”

The purpose of SSAS is “to offer the Court and Parole Board a highly structured specialized program for offenders under community supervision for felony drug offenses. Under the auspices of the Office of Probation Administration, in collaboration with Nebraska’s Parole Administration, the Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision Program is intended to accurately address the treatment needs of higher risk offenders in order to decrease the likelihood of recidivism and increase the safety of the public.”

SSAS design, target population, eligibility and suitability, core components such as treatment, day and evening reporting centers, and cognitive groups, personnel, specialized officers, training, outcomes, and program differences and comparisons were described.

After SSAS pilot programs are implemented the next steps include the expansion of pilots, expanding the target population, completing detailed outcome studies, connect all forms of supervision including intensive supervision probation, driving under the influence programming, and broadening the scope of specialized programming to domestic violence and sex offenders.

The PowerPoint given by Minardi and Rowoldt will be reproduced so everyone will have a copy. Minardi, Rowoldt, and Ellen Brokofsky answered questions regarding SSAS.

The Council recessed at 10:30 a.m. and reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

## **PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS**

Scott Carlson, Statewide Coordinator for Problem-Solving Courts, outlined the current state of affairs of problem-solving courts in Nebraska. Of significance was the existing courts, the collaboration with Probation, and the great need for funding both existing and new problem-solving courts as federal funding is no longer available. Carlson, in coordination with Probation, will present a proposal at the December 30 meeting of the Community Corrections Council.

The Council recessed for lunch at noon and reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

#### **METHAMPHETAMINE TREATMENT STUDY**

T. Hank Robinson, PhD., University of Nebraska—Omaha, presented the initial draft of the Methamphetamine Treatment Study. Key recommendations for treatment of offenders throughout the justice system and an effective treatment strategy were outlined. Robinson and others who contributed significantly to the study will be available at the December 16 meeting of the Council to answer detailed questions after the Council members have time to review the study in its entirety.

The Council recessed at 2:00 p.m. and reconvened at 2:15.

#### **2006 PROPOSED COUNCIL LEGISLATION**

The Council reviewed various options for 2006 legislation. The discussion will continue and will be more focused at the December 16 Council meeting.

#### **CONCLUDING REMARKS & ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next scheduled meeting of the Council is Friday, December 16, 2005, 9:00 a.m., in Lincoln, Nebraska, at the Cornhusker Hotel.

Respectfully submitted,

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Julie L. Rogers